



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

THREE CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH SONOITA ROLLOVER, DEATH OF FOUR ILLEGAL ALIENS

TUCSON, Ariz.— Fernando Montes-Carrillo, 31, a U.S. citizen; Juan Carlos Pineda-Navarro, 20, of Mexico, and David Ezquiél Tellez-Gutierrez, 31, of Mexico, were arrested in connection with a rollover crash near Sonoita, Ariz. and charged with conspiring to transport illegal aliens resulting in the death of four illegal aliens. All three defendants had their initial appearance Friday in federal court and are detained until their detention hearings on Tuesday, April 25, 2006.

The defendants were allegedly involved in the smuggling of 21 Mexican citizens into the U.S. through Sonoita, Ariz. U.S. Border Patrol Agents working on Elgin Road in Sonoita investigated after a sensor in the area alarmed. Agents witnessed two vehicles, a pickup truck with stolen Arizona plates and an SUV driving from the area. In an attempt to flee from US Border Patrol agents, Montes-Carrillo allegedly lost control and rolled the vehicle he was driving, resulting in the deaths of four illegal aliens. Seventeen others were also seriously injured.

After the accident, the driver of the second vehicle, later identified as Pineda-Navarro, attempted to turn around and flee the scene. He was stopped by US Border Patrol agents. Tellez-Gutierrez, who was injured in the accident, was identified by a material witness as the guide who brought the aliens into the U.S.

A conviction for conspiracy to transport resulting in a death carries a maximum penalty of life in prison a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the complaint was conducted the United States Border Patrol. The prosecution is being handled by Munish Sharda, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-6422M (HCE)
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-056(Montes-Carrillo, et.al)

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